

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 /125 W

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R 211123Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9851

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7434

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH LABOR MINISTER

JOSEF ALMOGI: GALILI PLAN

1. I CALLED ON LABOR MINISTER YOSEF ALMOGI ON SEPT 20 ACCOMPANIED BY LABOR ATTACHE AND DCM. ALMOGI'S COMMENTS ON CURRENT SITUATION CONCERNING FUTURE OF BEN AHARON IS REPORTED SEPTTEL; A MEMCON FOLLOWS ON OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST.

2. A MAJOR POINT OF INTEREST WHICH DEVELOPED DURING MY CALL CONCERNED ALMOGI'S VIEWS ON THE GALILI PLAN FOR THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ALMOGI BELIEVES THE DOCUMENT WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON ALIGNMENT ELECTORAL PROSPECTS IN KNESSET ELECTION. HE EXPLAINED THAT MOST SERIOUS OPPOSITION OF ALIGNMENT COMES FROM RIGHT WING--FROM GROUPS WHICH DEMAND ISRAEL "NOT GIVE UP ONE INCH OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES." GALILI DOCUMENT COULD WIN VOTES FROM THESE GROUPS AS WELL AS SATISFY MAJORITY OF LABOR PARTY FOLLOWERS, WHO TAKE MORE BALANCED POSITION IN THEIR TERRITORIAL DEMANDS WEIGHING CONSIDERATIONS OF SECURITY AND PROMOTION OF PEACE.

3. FURTHERMORE, ALMOGI SEES GALILI DOCUMENT AS NO RPT NO

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OBSTACLE TO PEACE SETTLEMENT WITH ARAB STATES SINCE, IN HIS VIEW,

IT WILL DEMONSTRATE TO ARABS THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT STAND STILL AND ARABS MAY BE BETTER OFF NEGOTIATING TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS. HE CITED SITUATION IN 1948, WHEN ISRAELI TERRITORY WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY SMALLER HAD ARABS AGREED TO RECOGNIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF JEWISH STATE. REAL PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO ALMOGI, IS REFUSAL OF ARABS TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL. ONCE THEY RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, THEY KNOW, OR SHOULD KNOW, THAT ISRAEL WILL BE LENIENT IN NEGOTIATING TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENT, INCLUDING SHARM EL-SHEIKH. JERUSALEM HE SAID IS DIFFERENT PROBLEM BECAUSE OF ITS SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE.

4. ALMOGI SEES NO SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE TO ALIGNMENT PROSPECTS FOR KNESSET ELECTION, MAINLY BECAUSE VAST MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS STILL VOTE ACCORDING TO TRADITIONAL PARTY LOYALTIES. HE PREDICTED CHANGE OF PERHAPS ONE OR TWO ALIGNMENT SEATS IN NEXT KNESSET.

5. COMMENT, O WOMOGI STRUCK ME AS A MOST IMPRESSIVE AND COMPETENT POLITICAL FIGURE. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD LEAVE THE CABINET TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF HWIFA AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL ADD CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH TO THE ALIGNMENT NATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL TICKETS. HE CLEARLY, HOWEVER, INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE FROM HIS HAIFA REGIONAL BASE.

6. I THOUGHT IT INTERESTING THAT ALMOGI FRANKLY ENDORSED THE THESIS THAT THE "CREATION OF FACTS" IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON THE ARABS AND HELP BRING THEM TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. SOME OTHER ISRAELI LEADERS WITH WHOM I HAVE DISCUSSED THE GALILI DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY SHARE THIS POINT OF VIEW, BUT SO FAR ONLY ALMOGI HAS PRESENTED IT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ME.  
KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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